

JOSHUA 8-9 – The Fall of Ai; Joshua Renews the Covenant; The Treaty With the Gibeonites!

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

OUTLINE OF JOSHUA

INTRODUCTION:

I. The Conquest of Canaan –

4. Victory at the second battle of Ai (8:1-35)
5. Conquest of Southern Canaan (9:1 to 10:43)
 - a. King in Southern Canaan join forces to fight Israel (9:1-2)
 - b. Gibeonites deceive Israel into making a league with them (9:3-27)

JOSHUA 8-9 – The Fall of Ai; Joshua Renews the Covenant;

Jos 8:1 Now the LORD said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. (God of 2nd chance!)

Jos 8:2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it." (Method of taking Ai – ambush! So different!)

Jos 8:3 So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai; and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them away by night.

Jos 8:4 And he commanded them, saying: "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you be ready.

Jos 8:5 Then I and all the people who are with me will approach the city; and it will come about, when they come out against us as at the first, that we shall flee before them.

Jos 8:6 For they will come out after us till we have drawn them from the city, for they will say, 'They are fleeing before us as at the first.' Therefore we will flee before them.

Jos 8:7 Then you shall rise from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand.

Jos 8:8 And it will be, when you have taken the city, that you shall set the city on fire. According to the commandment of the LORD you shall do. See, I have commanded you."

Jos 8:9 Joshua therefore sent them out; and they went to lie in ambush, and stayed between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of Ai; but Joshua lodged that night among the people.

Following Israel's defeat in their first attempt to take Ai. Realizing the reason was sin in the camp and resolving that sin of Achan, in chapter 7, we now come into chapter 8 – obedience after defeat – and then victory!

v. 1 Now the Lord said - God is **the God of second chances** – and third chances!! It's so good to hear from Him, especially after failure! The Lord speaks once again. **Such a priceless thing to hear the God speaking to us. Such an amazing thing.** Such an awe and wonder. Whenever someone is coming out of a difficult situation is to pray, may we hear His voice among all the voices we hear – voices of our friends, our family, our doctors, **We just need to hear God's voice above all others!** Take all of the people of war! God is not going to leave them in defeat but gives them instruction. What had they done? They only had gone up with 3,000. We shouldn't go up against the enemy, especially the Devil, with only a portion of our armor, but we need to fight with full force! Here He is giving them a second chance. He will give them victory. This **makes us love Him even more and a desire to obey Him!** It's so difficult to have a hardened heart with a God who gives us additional chances! Henry Ford defined a mistake as an opportunity to begin again, only more intelligently! With us only more spiritually in accordance with God's will.

vs. 2-4 Take all the booty for yourself – how tragic for Achan! Disobedience to God always robs us of blessings. God's battle plan for Ai – totally different than that of Jericho – He doesn't do things the same way! That's **why we need to stay continually in prayer! The only way to know His plans are to stay in constant communication with Him.** The game plan this time is ambush!

v. 5 Notice God uses the **previous defeat, even our mistakes against our enemy, for an advantage for us** – His grace again! **God is going to use their self-confidence against them** – to pull them into a trap! (Rom 8:28) It's **wonderful how God uses our mistakes, after/when we repent of them, for advantage!** Think about the Devil! He always overplays hand. He's proud. The Lord knows how to use that against him. That's what Redemption is! Taking their failure and redeeming them! Abraham, Joseph, Samson. Our Redeemer can work redemption through our failure.



V. 1. Have you experienced that **our God is a God of the second** and more, chance/s in your life? His encouragement? **Is your love for Him, as a result now, even greater?** Do you **pray for yourself and others to listen and hear the voice of the LORD, above all other voices**, especially during troubling times? When under attack from the enemy, Satan and his workers, **do you use all the spiritual armor? "the whole armor"**

vs. 2-3 Who is to get the booty when conquering Ai? What did Achan' disobedience cost him? How sad! What would have been the change if he had only been obedient for a little longer? Do we see that **blessings always follow obedience** and that **curses/lack of blessings always follow disobedience and robs us of God's blessing?**

v. 4 How **dramatically different** does the battle plan for Ai differ from that of Jericho? Does God usually do His work the same way? How then does **one determine God's will and plan for everything one does? – be connected in prayer!**

v. 5-17 Note how **God will use even your mistakes for His glory, if we learn from them.** Here He uses the overconfidence of the enemy, gained during the Israel's previous mistake. What was one contributor to Israel's mistake during the first attempt to take Ai – **self-confidence?** Have you ever experience Satan's pride and self confidence in overplaying His hand?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Jos 8:10 Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and mustered the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai.
Jos 8:11 And all the people of war who were with him went up and drew near; and they came before the city and camped on the north side of Ai. Now a valley lay between them and Ai.
Jos 8:12 So he took about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.
Jos 8:13 And when they had set the people, all the army that was on the north of the city, and its rear guard on the west of the city, Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley.
Jos 8:14 Now it happened, when the king of Ai saw it, that the men of the city hurried and rose early and went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at an appointed place before the plain. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city.
Jos 8:15 And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness.
Jos 8:16 So all the people who were in Ai were called together to pursue them. And they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city.
Jos 8:17 There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. So they left the city open and pursued Israel.
Jos 8:18 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city.
Jos 8:19 So those in ambush arose quickly out of their place; they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand, and they entered the city and took it, and hurried to set the city on fire.
Jos 8:20 And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and behold, the smoke of the city ascended to heaven. So they had no power to flee this way or that way, and the people who had fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers.
Jos 8:21 Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai.
Jos 8:22 Then the others came out of the city against them; so they were caught in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side. And they struck them down, so that they let none of them remain or escape.
Jos 8:23 But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua.

vs. 11-13 Notice Joshua's caution, regarding the probable coming together of Ai and Bethel. Do you see the thoroughness of God's battle plan?

v. 17 See how the mistake of self-confidence on the part of Ai led to a tragic strategic blunder in leaving no one to protect their city.

v. 18 Stretch out the spear..... How Joshua must have remembered the attack by the Amalekites at Rephidim? Exo 17:9-11 And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." [10] So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. [11] And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

vs. 19-29 We see how Joshua leads Israel in accordance with God's instructions. As He promised, He delivered the entire city! See how easily, how quickly, the scale turns against those that have not God on their side.

v. 11 Have you experienced the thoroughness of God's battle plan/s in your life?

vs. 12-29 How often when being in prayerful obedience to God's plan do you see it unfold in a most supernatural manner?

Can you see God's hand all the way through the preparation for the battle and then the victory that is given? Can you relate that to your own battles?

v. 17 We can learn much about Ai/Bethel's **tragic strategic blunder** of leaving no one to protect the cities **because of their being overly self-confident**. Does that speak to you? **How often do you act from a position of being overly self-confident?**

vs. 19-29 A summary of the keys for victory from this chapter:

- Be encouraged.
- Be obedient - Follow the LORD's plan.
- Use every resource, and the best resources.
- Live with and look to Jesus.
- Go on the offensive.
- Show no mercy to your enemy.

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INTERPRETATION

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Jos 8:24 And it came to pass when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness where they pursued them, and when they all had fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned to Ai and struck it with the edge of the sword.
Jos 8:25 So it was that all who fell that day, both men and women, were twelve thousand—all the people of Ai.
Jos 8:26 For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.
Jos 8:27 Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which He had commanded Joshua.
Jos 8:28 So Joshua burned Ai and made it a heap forever, a desolation to this day.
Jos 8:29 And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until evening. And as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his corpse down from the tree, cast it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones that remains to this day.

Joshua Renews the Covenant

Jos 8:30 Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal, (Mountain of curses – failure; what grace!)

Jos 8:31 as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: "an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool." (no human sweat involved!) And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.

Jos 8:32 And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

Jos 8:33 Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant (last mention of the ark in Joshua) of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

Jos 8:34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.

Jos 8:35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them. (the whole nation!)

v. 26 Joshua kept his hand and spear in the same posture, both stretched out and lifted up, as a sign both to encourage them, and to direct them to go on in the work.

v. 30 Victory! We've got momentum! But the Lord stops them in their tracks and they go about 30 miles out of the way to Mt. Gerizim and Ebal – read the Book of the Law as Moses had commanded. (**Dt. 27:4-8**) build an altar; offer sacrifices, write a copy of the law on stones; pronounce cursings and blessings; read the whole law. We remember that we failed, but God redeemed us and gave us victory through His grace! The One True God is being worshipped among the pagans!

v. 31 Burnt offering – an offering of consecration! My whole life belongs to you. (**Rom 12:1-2**)

Peace offering - picture of God eating His portion, the offerer – enjoying fellowship with one another – communication of their consecration, their commitment and appreciation of God making a way to have fellowship with Him.

v. 32 Joshua wrote the whole book of Deuteronomy. On the stones!

Publicly making their commitment to the Lord

vs. 33-35 Now the children of Israel have some *gnosko* - **knowledge by experience of victory and defeat!** – obedience brings victory & disobedience brings defeat! Can now really appreciate! They don't want defeat and are recommitting again to the Lord and to obeying and keeping His word, I've had enough of that!

v. 30 After tasting great victory, do you willingly, as did Joshua and the children of Israel, **obey the Lord when he leads you on a detour, having you spending time with Him and His Word? Making a whole-hearted commitment to God.**

v. 31 What is the **purpose of the burnt offering?** The **peace offering**. How does **Romans 12:1-2** relate?

vs. 33-35 Are you certain that obedience to the Lord and to His word brings blessings? Are you just as certain that disobedience always results in a lack of blessing and usually defeat? We stand between two mountains – Golgotha, the altar where the blood was shed and the Mt. of Olives, where Jesus will return! May we live there, remembering the price has been paid. Justified, sanctified, glorified – we're in that journey! If you have failed, don't let failure destroy – do it the way He says to do it. The price has been paid. He can turn it around!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Chapter 9 – A Compromise/failure to Seek the LORD’s Counsel! World = Sensorv: Lord - Faith

The Treaty With the Gibeonites!;

Jos 9:1 And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon—the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite—heard about it,

Jos 9:2 that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.

Jos 9:3 But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,

Jos 9:4 they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended,

Jos 9:5 old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy.

Jos 9:6 And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us."

Jos 9:7 Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?"

Jos 9:8 But they said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you, and where do you come from?"

Jos 9:9 So they said to him: "From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt,

Jos 9:10 and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan—to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroath. (these guy are good!)

Jos 9:11 Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, "Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, "We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us." "

Jos 9:12 This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy.

Jos 9:13 And these wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey."

vs. 1-3 The enemies of Israel are realizing they can’t fight alone, but need to unite. But notice how this uniting together, actually makes it easier for Israel to take them on, all gathered together in a field, rather than taking each in its own walled city, one by one! Plans of the enemy are no problem for God. He turns around their evil plans for His good.

v. 4 Gibeonites are smarter – they will choose not force against force, but let’s use **deception!**

vs. 5-6 They wanted to pose as coming a long way. They seem to have known that Joshua could make no covenants with the Canaanites.

vs. 7-8 Joshua is alerted that something may not be right? It doesn’t fit right with him. Every time I’ve been conned, I have been warned by the Spirit. No! **some things not right here.** The Gibeonites are very good at conning, better than Israel recognizing. Great lesson here for us! Joshua hesitates, something not fitting here. He’s lost his peace!

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule (umpire, making the call-safe or called out); *in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.* Joshua goes against his peace here, when he enters into this covenant. We look at one fork in the road and our peace disappears. We don’t have peace to go down that fork! Every time I’ve gone against my peace, it’s been a wrong decision.

v. 9 Notice the **danger here in continuing the conversation with the enemy.** They’re deceivers! We’ve got a greater deceiver than the Gibeonites. The devil is the father of lies. Lessons for us here! Gibeonites say they’ve come a long, long way because of the name of the Lord. Watch out for a little “God talk”! Beware **Christians have a tendency to let their guard down.**

vs. 10-11 These deceivers are good! Egypt, Sihon, Og, but notice no mention Jericho and Ai! If they came from a far country they would have no way of knowing about Jericho/Ai. These guys are good deceivers!

vs. 12-13 *This bread of ours.* They’re really laying it on! Hot bread out of the oven! Wineskins which were new, now old! Garments & sandals, new but now old! The whole pitch is to look at the physical evidence! they took stock of their vittles! They will make their decision based completely up on the pitch and the physical evidence.

v. 1-3 When did you last experience the Lord turning what the enemy met for into that which was good? The enemy uniting together actually made it easier for their defeat!

v. 8 How long has it been since you “lost your peace” through a deceptive situation? What did you do at that point? How common is it in your life right now to be ruled by peace, hour by hour, day by day? Are you obeying *Col. 3:15* - *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

Never, ever, ever, go against your peace! Every time we do we make a mistake. That’s the way God speaks to us! As Christians we walk in peace. **When that peace gets disturbed, look out!**

There is a fool proof defense against the con - ask counsel of the Lord!!!!

Have you experienced that every time you have gone against your peace, that it has been a wrong decision?

vs. 9-13 There is a **real danger in continuing to talk to a deceiver? Also to look at and pay too much attention to the physical evidence.** Realizing that we have a greater deceiver in Satan. **What do you do in situations where you confront him or his workers of iniquity?** *Jas 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Jos 9:14 Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.

Jos 9:15 So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.

Jos 9:16 And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were their neighbors who dwelt near them.

Jos 9:17 Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim.

Jos 9:18 But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers.

Jos 9:19 Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them.

Jos 9:20 This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them."

Jos 9:21 And the rulers said to them, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them."

Jos 9:22 Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, "Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell near us?"

Jos 9:23 Now therefore, you are cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves—woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

v. 14 BUT THEY DID NOT ASK COUNSEL OF THE LORD!

If they had, they would have immediately known that there is deception here. **Once again we see a failure of Israel to pray.**

Failure re taking Ai. Now they get fooled. That's how good the devil and the world is! **They completely deceive us by the physical evidence.** We, too often, make the decision by "common sense". Good decisions cannot be made simply by common sense!

— Only God know how many bad decisions are made by His people by not praying! There is a sense of something wrong here, but there still is no prayer, but more discussion with the deceivers! A very important lesson on the importance of prayer for a victorious Christian life! **If you don't hear anything else, hear this: God's Word is true. And the warnings of God are faithful. And when God warns you about these kind of alliances with unbelievers, you better listen to the Word of God.**

v. 15 They didn't ask counsel, so Joshua made peace with them.

v. 16 After three day, they realize they've been taken!

v.18 Even though we've gotten fooled, we've given them our word and kept the commitment. This was the right thing to do. Later when King Saul attempted to wipe them out, God was very displeased. Notice that "all the congregation complained against the rulers"! Why? Didn't get the loot? But more likely, it was the **obvious prayerlessness of their leaders!** It was so unnecessary, once again! **Leaders need to recognize the importance of prayer here. God's people will overlook a certain amount of poor decisions made by their leaders.** People do have a tolerance for bad leadership decision, but there is a limit – **a consistent lack of prayer.**

Here is a strong, strong exhortation for leaders to pray for all decision making!

v. 23 & 27 Joshua speaks of using them in the service of the Lord – pagan people. There's a danger of bringing pagan beliefs into the camp. We'll keep them serving as close to the tabernacle as we can, we influence them and not vice versa. It worked! We never see the Gibeonites pulling the Israelites away from the Lord. What another wonderful example of god's grace!

v. 14 How frequently do you seek the counsel of the Lord when making decisions? *Jas 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. Pro 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; [6] In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.* After describing all the equipment of the spiritual armor – **Eph 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints** **Is it ever wise to discuss with the deceiving enemy or to make peace with the enemy without prayer?**

v. 15 Let us imitate these Gibeonites, and make our peace with God in the rags of humiliation, godly sorrow, and death to self, so our iniquity shall not be our ruin. Let us be servants to Jesus, our blessed Joshua, and make an covenant with Him and we shall live.

vs. 16-17 What is your response when you discover that someone has seriously deceived you?

v.18 Why do you think that "all the congregation complained against the rulers"? **What important lesson for leader is there here?**

v. 19 Notice that **God was displeased with the treatment of the Gibeonites by King Saul - (2Sa 21:1** *Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites.")* **If the Gibeonites were safe because of the covenant of Joshua, how much more are we safe under the New Covenant!**

v. 20 How good are you, am I, for our word?

v. 23 Notice how Joshua speaks of **using the Gibeonites in service for the house of my God! What is being accomplished here?**

Do you realize that in **touching the ungodly, you can either make a tremendous impact on them for the Lord, or you can be defiled, pulled away from the Lord by them!**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Jos 9:24 So they answered Joshua and said, "Because your servants were clearly told that the LORD your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing.

Jos 9:25 And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us."

Jos 9:26 So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them.

Jos 9:27 And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day.

He is Able to Deliver Thee – William Ogden

'Tis the grandest theme through the ages rung; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal tongue;

'Tis the grandest theme that the world e'er sung, "Our God is able to deliver thee."

Refrain: He is able to deliver thee, He is able to deliver thee;

Though by sin oppressed, go to Him for rest; "Our God is able to deliver thee."

'Tis the grandest theme in the earth or main; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal strain;

'Tis the grandest theme, tell the world again, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)

*'Tis the grandest theme, let the tidings roll, To the guilty heart, to the sinful soul;
Look to God in faith, He will make thee whole, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)*

vs. 24-27 It is obvious here that the Gibeonites knew that Joshua had been commanded to destroy all the inhabitants of the land. Warning against ungodly alliances! The devil was trying to join the enemy with the Israelites. “if you can’t beat them, join them”!

Satan often hits us with a frontal attack. As painful as that may be, we usually recognize that as spiritual warfare. But **the more dangerous spiritual warfare is when he comes with deception to deceive.** Look at my sandals, my garments, how much harm did they do to us?

Relationships of whom we choose to align ourselves with as Christians, determines for many of us how rich we’re going to become spiritually; how many of God’s promises we’re going to possess in the New Testament.

The Bible tells us **to be very careful about who we make our friends, who we allow to influence us. Not to allow ungodly alliances.**

Even here where God pours out His grace, it complicates the life for children of Israel. We’ll see some of that in chapter 10 as the Gibeonites come under attack and ask Israel for help.

This is a stain on Joshua’s reputation. A failure on his part. Not many, but one of them.

So when we allow the devil to introduce relationship into our lives that are wrong - When we align ourselves with wrong relationships, it always produces a stain to our testimony!

Be careful of ungodly alliances! When you know that that person is an ungodly influence to compromise God’s work, stay away from them! It’s time for us to say, I’m going to turn away from that. It’s going to mess up my life, complicate my life and make it less than what God has for me

v. 24-27 Have you experienced **alliances with the ungodly?** How did that **affect your walk with the Lord; your fulfilling all of His promises for you?** **Compromise or making alliances with the enemy will always result in your witness for Christ to be diminished! Be careful of ungodly alliances! We need to examine our lives right now.** Have ungodly influences, ungodly relationships been introduced in our lives?

OT history of events – but intended to be more, also known as typical history – all designed to enrich our understanding of NT.

- The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed, but the Old is in the New revealed. - *Rom 15:4* “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning.....
- Progression of Israel lines up with the life of a Christian
- Egypt is a picture of our salvation. - A greater thing for us in our lives in delivering us out of the bondage of sin
- Crossing of the Red Sea – a picture of water baptism
- 40 yrs. of wandering in the wilderness – a type of a Christian’s walk fails to step out in faith to the promises of God; to obey God’s word – go around in circles – in the wilderness, saved, fed and kept? yes, but not accomplishing anything; never entering into the fullness of God’s promises.
- The crossing of the Jordan River – a type of being baptized with The Holy Spirit
- The circumcision of the males of Israel – a picture of obeying God no matter what the cost, even leaving us vulnerable.
- The victory over Jericho - walls of Jericho falling– When attack is on the basis of God’s instruction. – Same as the strongholds in our own lives – strongholds of addiction, selfishness, they will fall when we simply obey God’s plan, obey God’s word!
- The defeat of Israel in their first attempt to take Ai – like in our own lives, no one can be successful who lives a life where there is secret sin or deliberate disobedience of God’s word – willful disobedience of the will of the Lord. Achan in his deliberate disobedience brought sin and then defeat into the people of Israel.
- Taking of the Lord’s Supper – important part is to remember His death, His grace, His resurrection, but also to remember His consecration of His will to the Father’s. To allow the Holy Spirit to search our lives – Any willful disobedience in our lives, keeps us defeated, keeping us from progressing. **to turn away from that and move forward**